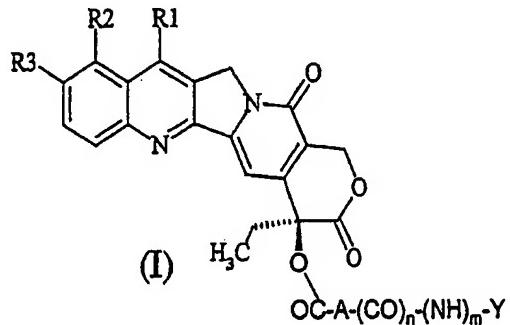


**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (Previously Presented) A compound of Formula I



where:

A is saturated or unsaturated straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl, C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> cycloalkyl, straight or branched C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>10</sub> cycloalkyl-C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl;

n and m are both O or both 1;

when n and m are equal to 1, then Y is saturated or unsaturated straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkyl substituted with NR<sub>12</sub>R<sub>13</sub> or N<sup>+</sup>R<sub>12</sub>R<sub>13</sub>R<sub>14</sub>, where R<sub>12</sub>, R<sub>13</sub> and R<sub>14</sub>, which can be the same or different, are hydrogen or straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, or Y is BCOOX, where B is an organic compound bearing at least one carboxyl residue and at least one amine residue, X is H, straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, benzyl or phenyl, substituted in the available positions with at least one group selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy, halogen, nitro, amino, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, or,

if n and m are both 0; Y is 4-trimethylammonium-3-hydroxybutanoyl, both in the form of

inner salt and in the form of a salt with an anion of a pharmaceutically acceptable acid, or

Y is  $N^+R_{12}R_{13}R_{14}$ , as defined above;

$R_1$  is a  $-C(R_5)=N-O-R_4$  group, in which  $R_4$  is hydrogen or a straight or branched  $C_1-C_5$

alkyl or  $C_1-C_5$  alkenyl group, or a  $C_3-C_{10}$  cycloalkyl group, or a straight or branched

$(C_3C_{10})$  cycloalkyl -  $(C_1-C_5)$  alkyl group, or a  $C_6-C_{14}$  aryl group, or a straight or branched

$(C_6-C_{14})$  aryl -  $(C_1-C_5)$  alkyl group, or a heterocyclic group or a straight or branched

heterocyclo -  $(C_1-C_5)$  alkyl group, said heterocyclic group containing at least one

heteroatom selected from an atom of nitrogen, optionally substituted with a  $(C_1-C_5)$  alkyl

group, and/or an atom of oxygen and/or of sulphur; said alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl,

cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, aryl-alkyl, heterocyclic or heterocyclo-alkyl groups may optionally

be substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy,  $C_1-C_5$  alkyl,  $C_1-$

$C_5$  alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro,  $-NR_6R_7$ , where  $R_6$  and  $R_7$ , which may be the same or

different, are hydrogen, straight or branched  $(C_1-C_5)$  alkyl, the  $-COOH$  group or one of its

pharmaceutically acceptable esters; or the  $-CONR_8R_9$  group, where  $R_8$  and  $R_9$ , which may

be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched  $(C_1-C_5)$  alkyl; or  $R_4$  is a  $(C_6-$

$C_{10})$  aroyl or  $(C_6-C_{10})$  arylsulphonyl residue, optionally substituted with one or more

groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, straight or branched  $C_1-C_5$  alkyl, straight or

branched  $C_1-C_5$  alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro,  $-NR_{10}R_{11}$ , where  $R_{10}$  and  $R_{11}$ , which may be

the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched  $C_1-C_5$  alkyl; or  $R_4$  is a

polyaminoalkyl substituent; or  $R_4$  is a glycosyl substituent;  $R_5$  is hydrogen, straight or

branched  $C_1-C_5$  alkyl, straight or branched  $C_1-C_5$  alkenyl,  $C_3-C_{10}$  cycloalkyl, straight or

branched  $(C_3-C_{10})$  cycloalkyl -  $(C_1-C_5)$  alkyl,  $C_6-C_{14}$  aryl, straight or branched  $(C_6-C_{14})$

aryl -  $(C_1-C_5)$  alkyl;

R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub>, which may be the same or different, are hydrogen, hydroxyl, straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkoxy; and

the N1-oxides, the racemic mixtures, their individual enantiomers, their individual diastereoisomers, their mixtures, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

2. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, in which, in formula (I), n and m are 1.

3. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, in which, in formula (I), n and m are 0.

4. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 1, selected from the group consisting of:

(E)-7-tert-butoxyiminomethyl-20-O-(4-trimethyl-ammonium-3-hydroxy)butanoyl-camptothecin bromide;

(E)-7-tert-butoxyiminomethyl-20-O-(4-trimethyl-ammonium)butanoyl-camptothecin bromide;

(E)-7-tert-butoxyiminomethyl-20-O-hemisuccinyl-camptothecin;

(E)-7-tert-butoxyiminomethyl-20-O-[2-(dimethylamino)ethylamino]succinylcamptothecin hydrochloride;

20-O-(benzylglycyl)succinyl-camptothecin;

20-O-(terbutylglycyl)succinyl-camptothecin bromide;

7-tert-butoxyiminomethyl-20-O-(terbutylglycyl)succinyl-camptothecin;

20-O-(glycyl)succinyl-camptothecin;  
20-O-(2-methoxyphenylglycyl)succinyl-camptothecin; and  
7-ter-butoxyiminomethyl-20-O-(2-methoxy-phenylglycyl)  
succinyl-camptothecin.

5. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound according to claim 1, where n and m are 0, comprising:

- a) reaction of the camptothecin, optionally substituted with the R<sub>1</sub>, group as defined above optionally substituted with the R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> groups defined above, with a carboxylic acid bearing a leaving group ω to obtain the respective ester in position 20; and
- b) substitution of said leaving group with the Y group.

6. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound according to claim 1, where n and m are 1, comprising:

- a) reaction of the camptothecin, optionally substituted with the R<sub>1</sub>, group as defined above and optionally substituted with the R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> groups defined above, with a carboxylic acid with 3 to 11 carbon atoms, to obtain the respective hemiester in position 20; and
- b) transformation of the free carboxylic group of said hemiester to the respective amide -NH-Y.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition containing a therapeutically effective amount of at least one compound according to claim 1, in admixture with pharmaceutically acceptable vehicles and excipients.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 8, also containing an anticancer agent as an active ingredient.

11.-13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) A compound according to claim 1, in which B is glycine, alanine, phenylalanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, lysine, arginine, tyrosine, and  $\gamma$ -aminobutyric acid or a salt on a free carboxyl and/or on a free basic group with pharmaceutically acceptable base or acid.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of treating a tumor susceptible to treatment with a camptothecin comprising administering to a subject having a susceptible tumor an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the tumor is a lung cancer, colorectal cancer, prostate cancer or a glioma.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the tumor is a lung tumor.

18. (Canceled).

19. (New) A method of treating a tumor resistant to Topoisomerase I inhibitors, comprising administering to a subject having a susceptible tumor an effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.

20. (New) The method according to claim 19, wherein the tumor is a lung cancer, colorectal cancer, prostate cancer or a glioma.